



Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4373 FAX (602) 542-5420

PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Ed Hermes, 602-542-0958

Agriculture Officers Use New Tool to Fight Livestock Crime

On board laptops and crime-data base increase effectiveness of crime fighting on the range

(Phoenix – Ariz.) – For most Arizonans, cattle rustling may seem like an issue out of Arizona's past, but for the Arizona Department of Agriculture's (ADA) Animal Health and Welfare Officers livestock theft is one of the many crimes these specialized officers enforce. The Department's Officers recently received a new tool to crackdown on livestock theft that will allow them to spend more time fighting crime and conducting inspections and less time processing paperwork.

This new tool is a crime-data base called the Animal Incident Reporting System or "AIRS," and coupled with on-board wireless laptops in these modern day Arizona Rangers' pick up trucks these officers will be able to file reports, look up suspects, and process inspections without ever having to leave the range.

"Now more than ever we are looking at how we can get even more efficient with our resources in order to handle the thousands of calls we receive for livestock inspection, abuse, theft, and strayed animals," said ADA Director Donald Butler. "This tool will allow us to continue to respond in a timely manner and continue to keep our livestock in this state safe from theft, disease, and abuse."

The ADA has 21 full and part time Animal Health and Welfare Officers that keep livestock safe from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon to the grazing lands near the Geronimo Trail in Cochise County.